

Wharton House (Van Wyck House)
U.S. Route 9
Fishkill
Dutchess County
New York

HABS No. NY-6028

HABS
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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE NEW YORK	COUNTY DUTCHESS	TOWN OR VICINITY FISHKILL
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) WHARTON HOUSE		HABS NO. NY-6028
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE VAN WYCK HOUSE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) U.S. Route 9		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE)		ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE)
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) The house has historical significance as the officers headquarters of the encampment in Fishkill during the Revolutionary War. The mock trial of Enoch Crosby, the model for James Fennimore Cooper's fictional character Harvey Birch, was held here.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Colonial vernacular		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Wood		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Main house is two stories on a rectangular plan; addition is one and one-half stories on rectangular plan. For photos of the house see data p. 3 (originals in field records).		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Gabled roof (originally wooden shingles), three porches, four brick chimneys, six exterior doors, twenty-two windows.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED)		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Vacant in 1964.		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE For history of original and subsequent owners see data page two. For information on historical persons and events associated with the site see field records.		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Hubbard, Eberlein. Historical Houses of the Hudson Valley. NY:1942, pp.65-66. Lossing, Benson, J. Pictorial Field Book of the Revolution. 1855. Myers, Helen. Interview in Poughkeepsie Journal, Sunday, May 27, 1962. (cont'd on data p2.)		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Eleni Silverman Historian, HABS from reports by Marilyn Coates(2/20/64) and (2/21/64)		DATE 05/08/84

Original and Subsequent Owners:

The following is an incomplete chain of title to the property:

- 1733 April 10, 1733. Cornelius Van Wyck bought 959 acres along Wappings Creek from Madame Brett.
- 1761 Will dated 1757.
 Cornelius Van Wyck
 To
 Richard and Cornelius C. Van Wyck (sons)
 Cornelius retains homestead and house.
- 1767 Will, probated March 15, 1767.
 Cornelius Van Wyck
 To
 Isaac Van Wyck (son).
- 1811 Will probated August 2.
 Issac Van Wyck
 To
 Issac I. Van Wyck.
- 1862 Issac I. Van Wyck died March 22. Property to his son Sidney E. Van Wyck.
- 1883 Deed.
 Executors of Sidney E. Van Wyck
 To
 David Hustis. (Sidney died childless.)
- Date David Hustiss died. Property to Nettie Hustis (daughter). Nettie
unknown ran a tea room and to enhance the setting added the long porch facing Route 9.
- c1940 Townsend Young Snook bought house.
- c1959 T.Y. Snook died. Jay Snook inherited property.
- c1960 Will.
 Jay Snook
 To
 Jay Snook, Jr. and Donald Snook (sons).
 Property untenanted. Tax card #127800, Town of Fishkill, lists the owner as Jay Snook.

Sources of Information (cont'd):

Pawling, Philip Smith. General History of Dutchess County, 1877.

Reynolds, Helen Wilkinson. Dutchess County Doorways. NY: 1931.

Van Wyck, Anne. Descendants of Cornelius Barentse Van Wyck and Ann Polhemus. NY:1912. (Possession of Miss Edith Van Wyck.)

WHARTON HOUSE
HABS No. NY-6028 (3)

